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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
ACDA-07 DHA-02 CU-02 EB-08 COME-00 STR-04 VO-03
SCA-01 /106 W
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R 300504Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7904
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL KRAKOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL POZNAN
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 3105

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, PL
SUBJ: MONITORING OF POLISH CSCE IMPLEMENTATION

REF: A. 76 STATE 084043, B. 76 STATE 224882, C. STATE 806619,
D. 76 WARSAW 7764, E. 76 WARSAW 8884

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED IN POLISH COMPLIANCE WITH THE CSCE FINAL ACT SINCE OUR LAST REPORT IN OCTOBER 1976. RATIFICATION BY THE GOP IN MARCH, 1977, OF THE INTER
-
NATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS IS PROBABLY PART OF POLISH PREPARATION FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. A NEW HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP, CALLED THE MOVEMENT IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS, HAS EMERGED. THE MOVEMENT'S STATE PURPOSE IS TO MONITOR AND PUBLICIZE POLISH COMPLIANCE WITH THE CSCE FINAL ACT AND WITH THE RECENTLY RATIFIED UN VOVENANTS. NEITHER THE NEW MOVEMENT NOR THE WORKERS' DEFENSE LEAGUE HAS BEEN ABLE TO GAIN MUCH SUPPORT FROM THE POLISH WORKERS; THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CONTINUES TO HOLD ITSELF ALOOF FROM BOTH ORGANIZATIONS. THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, DESPITE INTERNAL DIFFERENCES, HAS THUS
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FAR PURSUED A MODERATE COURSE AGAINST DOMESTIC DISSIDENTS, IN THE APPARENT BELIEF THAT THESE GROUPS DO NOT REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE PZPR'S POLITICAL HEGEMONY AT THIS TIME.

2. WHEN COMPARED WITH THE USSR AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, POLAND,S CSCE PERFORMANCE IS GENERALLY GOOD, ESPECIALLY IN BASKET II. DESPITE CONTINUING DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, PZPR FIRST SECRETARY EDWARD GIEREK APPEARS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TRADE EXPANSION WITH THE WEST, ALTHOUGH AT A SLOWER PACE. WE BELIEVE THIS LOWER GROWTH RATE WILL AFFECT THE ABILITY AND THE WILLINGNESS OF US FIRMS TO BROADEN COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLAND.

3. TO SAY THAT POLISH PERFORMANCE IS GOOD RELATIVE TO THAT OF OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE SHOULD BE SATISFIED. FAMILY REUNIFICATION REMAINS A PROBLEM IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. MOREOVER,

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NOT ENOUGH POLES HAVE READY ACCESS TO WESTERN NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS AND BOOKS. END SUMMARY.

4. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR US BUSINESSMEN (ITEM 6)

A. US FIRMS CONTINUE TO HAVE RELATIVELY GOOD ACCESS TO END-USERS OF EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY WHERE LARGE PROJECTS ARE INVOLVED. COMPANIES WITH LOCAL OFFICES ARE BETTER OFF IN THIS REGARD, BUT OTHERS, SUCH AS US STEEL AND ALCOA, HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO MEET WITH END-USERS DURING THEIR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.

B. SEVERAL ADDITIONAL US FIRMS, INCLUDING GENERAL ELECTRIC, HAVE OPENED OFFICES IN WARSAW, IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS. AT LEAST FIVE OTHERS ARE CONSIDERING OPENING OFFICES HERE. THE HIGH COST OF MAINTAINING LOCAL ESTABLISH-MENTS IS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO EXPANSION IN THIS AREA.
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MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIALS HAVE RECENTLY AGREED TO REVIEW OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE POLICIES FOR LOCAL OFFICES OF FOREIGN FIRMS TO SEE IF THE EXPENSE MIGHT BE REDUCED SOMEWHAT.

C. THE GOP'S HOTEL-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM HAS VIRTUALLY ENDED THE PROBLEM OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, EXCEPT DURING GHE BUSY SUMMER MONTHS. THE VICTORIA INTER-CONTINENTAL IN WARSAW AND THE HOLIDAY INN IN KRAKOW HAVE BEEN OPENED IN THE LAST YEAR, AND THE POLES HAVE CONTRACTED WITH FOREIGN BUILDERS FOR NEW HOTELS IN WARSAW, GDYNIA, SZCZECIN, AND OTHER CITIES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. NEW FIRMS CONTINUE TO ENCOUNTER INCONVENIENCE AND DELAYS IN FINDING OFFICE SPACE, BUT THESE DIFFICULTIES HAVE NOT BEEN SEVERE. THE AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING FOR FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN SEEMS ADEQUATE IN WARSAW. THE POLES HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO BUILD NEW HOUSES FOR PERSONS INVOLVED IN ERECTING MAJOR PROJECTS OUTSIDE OF WARSAW, SUCH AS THE RCA-CORNING GLASS PLANT. THIS CONSTRUCTION IS BEHIND SCHEDULE, BUT IT STILL REFLECTS THE WILLINGNESS OF THE POLES TO RESPOND TO THE PROBLEM.

D. THE POLISH RECORD ON PUBLICATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION IS COMPARATIVELY GOOD, BUT COULD BE IMPROVED.

E. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT, COOPERATION BETWEEN POLISH AND FOREIGN COMPANIES COVERS THE GAMUT OF

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 3105

LICENSING, INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, JOINT MARKETING,
AND SALES-AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS. REGULATIONS ISSUED IN
MAY 1976, PERMIT SOLE FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF
COMPANIES ENGAGED IN SERVICES AND JOINT VENTURES WITH
POLISH FIRMS IN MANUFACTURING OR OTHER ACTIVITIES. ONE
RETAIL STORE SELLING JEANS HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN OPENED
IN KRAKOW BY A FOREIGN NATIONAL, BUT WE KNOW OF NO
OTHER EXAMPLES OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

F. THE LAST SIX MONTHS HAVE SEEN A SURGE IN
COOPERATION AGREEMENTS AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN US AND POLISH
FIRMS IN THE AIRCRAFT AND AIRCRAFT-EQUIPMENT SECTOR.

5. FAMILY MEETINGS (ITEM 7)

A. TO BE PROVIDED IN WASHINGTON.

B. NO CHANGE.

C. WE BELIEVE THE 64 PERCENT RISE IN TOURIST VISAS
ISSUED TO POLES IN THE PERIOD JULY 1, 1976 - DECEMBER 31,
1976, OVER THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO, IS PRIMARILY DUE
TO THE IMPROVED ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES.
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APPROXIMATELY 50,000 AMERICANS VISITED POLAND DURING 1976.

6. FAMILY REUNIFICATION (ITEM 8)

A. DURING GHE PERIOD JULY - DECEMBER 1976, 1502
NEW IMMIGRANT-VISA PETITIONS WERE RECEIVED FOR POLISH CITIZENS.
ALL BUT 360 WERE FOR THE RELATIVES OF US CITIZENS.

B. TO BE PROVIDED IN WASHINGTON.

C. DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1976, 112 CASES OF IMMIGRANT PASSPORT
DENIALS WERE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS BY THE EMBASSY. ALL CASES CONCERNED RELATIVES OF US CITIZENS.
THE ACTUAL INCREASE IN UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR EMIGRATION WAS MUCH

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GREATER, SINCE 1502 NEW VISA PETITIONS WERE RECEIVED AND ONLY
778 VISAS WERE ISSUED. VISA REQUESTS ARE RARELY REFUSED, SO
THE AVAILABILITY OF EMIGRANT PASSPORTS IS THE LIMITING FACTOR.

D. NO CHANGE.

E. THE TWELVE-PERCENT INCREASE IN EMIGRATION TO THE US FROM POLAND
IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1976 OVER THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR,
(778 VS 694) IS INSIGNIFICANT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE MUCH HIGHER
FIGURES OF A DECADE AGO AND THE PRESENT FIGURES FOR EMIGRATION TO
THE FRG (CURRENTLY OVER 2000 PER MONTH).

F. NO CHANGE.

7. BINATIONAL MARRIAGES (ITEM 9)

A. NO CHANGE

B. ELEVEN FIANCE (E) / (K) VISAS WERE ISSUED TO POLISH
CITIZENS JULY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1976.

C. FIVE NEW CASES OF DIVIDED SPOUSES AROSE DURING
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THE REPORTING PERIOD.

D. NO CHANGE.

8. TRAVEL AND TOURISM (ITEM 10)

A. TO BE PROVIDED IN WASHINGTON

B. NOT AVAILABLE

C. NO CHANGE

D. NO CHANGE

E. NO CHANGE

F. NO CHANGE

9. INFORMATION (ITEM 11)

A. NO CHANGE

B. NO CHANGE

C. NO CHANGE

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D. NO CHANGE

E. NO CHANGE.

F. ALTHOUGH THE LAST SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT NOTED EVIDENCE
OF A SHARP REDUCTION OF POLISH PURCHASES OF
AMERICAN FEATURE FILMS, NO SIGNIFICANT DECLINE HAS AS YET OCCURRED
IN THE NUMBER OF US MOVIES APPEARING IN POLISH CINEMAS. FILMS
PURCHASED IN PREVIOUS YEARS CONTINUED TO BE CIRCULATED DURING THE
REPORTING PERIOD. ON AN AVERAGE DAY, APPROXIMATELY SIX AMERICAN
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FILMS WERE SCREENED IN WARSAW. THIS IS A SLIGHT DECREASE
FROM THE USUAL LEVEL, BUT WE SEE NO PERCEPTIBLE TREND TO REDUCE
THE SHOWINGS OF AMERICAN FILMS, WHICH CONTINUE TO BE THE MOST
POPULAR FOREIGN FILMS IN POLAND.

10. JOURNALISTS (ITEM 12)

A. NO CHANGE

B. NO CHANGE

C. NO CHANGE

D. NO CHANGE

E. NO CHANGE

F. NO CHANGE

G. (A) NO CHANGE

(B) APPROXIMATELY 25 NEW JOURNALISTS VISAS WERE
ISSUED TO POLISH CITIZENS DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1976.
MANY OTHERS MAY HAVE TRAVELLED, SINCE SUCH VISAS ARE VALID FOR
SIX MONTHS AND MULTIPLE ENTRIES.

H. NO CHANGE

I. NO CHANGE
DAVIES

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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